

CAPES Global.edu Program

Call for applications Nº 03/2026 – BLUE LINK Network

Doctoral Sandwich Scholarship in Brazil

2027-1 Schedule

The Steering Committee of the Blue-Link Network – Research Network on Sustainability of Estuarine, Coastal and Oceanic Ecosystems for the Internationalization of Graduate Education, in the exercise of the responsibilities established in its Governance Plan, hereby announces this Call for Applications for Doctoral Research Scholarships in Brazil, intended for non-Brazilian doctoral candidates affiliated with higher education institutions abroad.

1. OBJECTIVES

1.1 The objectives of this Call are:

I – To strengthen the internationalization of Brazilian graduate education by encouraging the participation of international students in graduate programs, thereby fostering knowledge exchange and cultural diversity within Brazilian institutions;

II – To broaden the cultural horizons of Brazilian students by enabling international doctoral candidates to contribute new cultural, academic, and scientific perspectives to the Brazilian university environment;

III – To promote the academic education of international students in Brazilian graduate programs, contributing to the scientific and academic development of their home countries through advanced technical and scientific training;

IV – To reduce regional and institutional asymmetries among the graduate programs participating in the Network;

V – To consolidate strategic international partnerships within the BLUE-LINK Network; and

VI – To promote scientific, technological, and social outputs aligned with the Network's thematic areas and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS



2.1 This Call regulates and publicizes the selection process for Doctoral Research Scholarships in Brazil for non-Brazilian doctoral candidates enrolled at higher education institutions abroad who wish to undertake a research stay in graduate programs associated with the BLUE-LINK Network, as specified in Table 1.

2.2 Following the internal selection conducted by each participating institution and the nomination by the Steering Committee, the implementation of the Doctoral Research Scholarship in Brazil under the BLUE-LINK Network is the responsibility of the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES), which will provide funding in accordance with its specific regulations.

2.3 The receipt of funding by candidates selected through the Network is conditional upon compliance with all CAPES procedures, requirements, and deadlines.

2.4 The selection of candidates for Doctoral Research Scholarships in Brazil shall comply with the following mandatory requirements:

I – The applicant must be an international doctoral student regularly enrolled at a higher education institution located exclusively outside Brazil;

II – The applicant must present a research plan aligned with the research lines of the selected graduate program and with the thematic areas established by the Network, available at <https://capesglobal.furg.br>;

III – The applicant must submit all documentation required under this Call.

2.5 The duration of the scholarship depends on the number of scholarships available at each institution within the Network, as indicated in Table 1, and must comply with the CAPES schedule described in Section 10.

2.6 The scholarship may not be shared between two students.

2.7 Scholarships not allocated by one institution may be redistributed to other institutions within the same application cycle, according to the priority criteria established in Section 7.6.

3. NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS



3.1 The availability of scholarships is linked to the participating institutions and thematic areas of the BLUE-LINK Network.

3.2 Table 1 presents the number of scholarships available for implementation between **March and June 2027**, as projected by each participating institution of the Network.

Table 1. Doctoral Research Scholarships in Brazil available under this Call, by institution and thematic area.

Institution	Themes			
	Biodiversity & Biotechnology	Climate Change	One Health	Food Safety
FURG 6 months scholarships	1	1	1	1
UEFS 6 months scholarships	1	0	0	0
UNIFAP 6 months scholarships	2	1	-	1

4. BENEFITS

4.1 In accordance with CAPES Ordinance No. 1 of January 3, 2020, and CAPES Ordinance No. 3 of February 16, 2023, each scholarship includes the following benefits:

- I – Installation assistance;
- II – Travel assistance;
- III – Health insurance assistance; and
- IV – Monthly Scholarship Stipend.

4.2 The total value of these benefits amounts to BRL 28,250.00 for six-month scholarships.

5. REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 Participating Institution

5.1.1 Each institution shall be required to:

- I – Ensure broad dissemination of this Call among the Graduate Programs participating in the Network;

II – Define and conduct its institutional selection process;

III – Submit to the Network Steering Committee the nomination of candidates provisionally awarded the scholarships available to the institution and, where applicable, a ranked list of alternate candidates, organized by thematic area.

5.1.2 The institutional selection schedule shall include, at a minimum, deadlines for:

I – Candidate applications;

II – Validation of applications;

III – Candidate assessment and selection;

IV – Publication of preliminary results;

V – Appeal period, in accordance with Section 8.1;

VI – Publication of final institutional results.

5.1.3 Each institution shall submit to the Steering Committee, through a designated spreadsheet, the following information for each approved candidate (awardees and alternates):

I – Information on the institution administrative focal point;

II – Thematic area;

III – Candidate's full name;

IV – Candidate's CPF (Brazilian Individual Taxpayer Registration Number);

V – Candidate status (scholarship awardee or alternate);

VI – Candidate ranking position;

VII – Raw Curriculum Vitae scores of each approved candidate (scores shall not be normalized against the highest score).

5.1.4 Each institution is responsible for maintaining, for a period of five years, all candidate documents and records related to the institutional selection process.

5.2 Steering Committee

5.2.1 The responsibilities of the Steering Committee are as follows:

- I – To publish and disseminate this Call for Applications across all institutions participating in the Network;
- II – To reallocate scholarships not utilized by a given institution to alternate candidates from other institutions, in accordance with the prioritization criteria established in Section 7.6;
- III – To approve the final list of selected candidates and alternate candidates for scholarship implementation and forward it to the Theme Coordinators; and
- IV – To decide on cases not expressly provided for in this Call for Applications.

5.3 Theme Coordinator

5.3.1 The Theme Coordinator shall be required to:

- I – Nominate the scholarship awardees through the CAPES electronic system, in accordance with the schedule established in Section 10; and
- II – Inform the Steering Committee of any irregularity or issue arising during the nomination of scholarship recipients or during the implementation of scholarships by CAPES.

5.4 Brazilian Co-supervisor

5.4.1 The Brazilian co-supervisor shall be required to:

- I – Be a faculty member of a Graduate Program participating in the BLUE-LINK Network within the thematic area selected by the applicant at the time of application;
- II – Continuously supervise the scholarship recipient in order to ensure compliance with the obligations established in the Scholarship Award and Acceptance Agreement;
- III – In collaboration with the Graduate Program, organize during the scholarship period a seminar aimed at disseminating the research conducted and the academic experience of the international co-supervised doctoral candidate; and
- IV – Notify the Network Coordination of any changes to the fellow's information that may affect the payment or award of the scholarship.



5.5 Scholarship Applicant

5.5.1 All eligibility requirements established in this Call are mandatory. Failure to comply with any of these provisions shall result in the rejection of the application by the Graduate Program.

5.5.2 Applications may be submitted by students who simultaneously meet all of the following requirements:

- I – Be regularly enrolled in a doctoral program at an institution located outside Brazil;
- II – Hold a Brazilian Individual Taxpayer Registration Number (CPF). Applicants who do not yet possess a CPF must register at <https://servicos.receita.fazenda.gov.br/servicos/cpf/inscricaocpf estrangeiro/default.asp>;
- III – Reside outside Brazil;
- IV – Be a foreign national;
- V – Not hold Brazilian nationality, dual Brazilian nationality, or eligibility for Brazilian nationality at the time of application;
- VI – Not hold permanent residence authorization for Brazil;
- VII – Demonstrate completion of a degree equivalent to a bachelor's degree under the Brazilian higher education system;
- VIII – Not be enrolled in Brazil in a program at the same academic level as that sought under this scholarship;
- IX – Not be in debt with CAPES or listed in any federal government debtor registry;
- X – Be able to commence academic activities immediately, in accordance with the deadlines established by the host Graduate Program and this Call;
- XI – Hold an ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) registration and provide the identifier in the application form. Applicants who do not yet possess an ORCID ID must register at <https://orcid.org>;
- XII – Have fulfilled the required intermission period, having remained in their country of origin or residence for at least two (2) years after:
 - a) Obtaining a Brazilian undergraduate degree, in the case of former PEC-G students or candidates who received a scholarship from a Brazilian funding agency to pursue undergraduate studies in Brazil; and
 - b) Obtaining a master's degree (academic or professional), in the case of former PEC-PG students or candidates who received a scholarship from a Brazilian funding agency.



XIII – Not have been awarded a scholarship under CAPES's Move la América Program;

XIV – Not have previously received a Sandwich Doctoral or Full Doctoral scholarship funded by a Brazilian federal public agency in the same or any previous doctoral program;

XV – Not hold a doctoral degree; and

XVI – Fulfill all other requirements established in this Call for Applications.

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

6.1 Applications shall be submitted in accordance with the schedule provided in Section 10 and the specific instructions issued by each institution, together with the following documentation:

I – Application Form, as provided in Annex I of this Call for Applications;

II – An official photo identification document of the applicant;

III – Proof of residence abroad, such as utility bills (water, electricity, among others) or other documents demonstrating the applicant's place of residence;

IV – A valid ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID) at the time of application, to be provided directly in the application form;

V – A research plan for the Doctoral Research Scholarship period, written in Portuguese, English, or Spanish, including the following mandatory components:

a) Introduction;

b) General and specific objectives;

c) Justification for undertaking the training period in Brazil, considering the research and educational capacity available in the country of origin or residence, including a clear explanation of the reasons for selecting the host Brazilian Graduate Program;

d) Expected outcomes and their potential for further development and impact;

e) Expected academic and scientific production targets;

f) A work schedule describing the activities to be carried out during the scholarship period, including fieldwork where applicable, indicating the location and expected dates for each activity; and

g) Bibliographic references.

VI – A current Curriculum Vitae, written in Portuguese, Spanish, or English;



VII – Undergraduate diploma (front and back), in Portuguese, Spanish, or English, or accompanied by a simple translation into one of these languages; and

VIII – A statement issued by the applicant's Graduate Program, or equivalent academic authority, confirming:

- a) That the applicant is duly enrolled in a doctoral-level graduate program, or equivalent; and
- b) That the applicant has completed at least the first year of the doctoral program.

7. SELECTION PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

7.1 All requirements listed in Section 5.5 and all documents specified in Section 6.1 constitute mandatory conditions for eligibility in the institutional selection process.

7.2 The selection process shall consist of evaluation of the Curriculum Vitae (40% of the final score), considering academic production from 2022 onwards; and evaluation of the Research Plan (60% of the final score). Both components shall be used for ranking purposes.

7.3 For female applicants who became mothers through childbirth or adoption during the evaluation period of the Curriculum Vitae (from 2022 onwards), the period considered for curriculum evaluation shall be extended by two years for each childbirth or adoption occurring within the assessment period, in recognition of the impact of motherhood on scientific productivity. Applicants eligible under this provision must indicate the date(s) of birth or adoption of their child(ren) in the application form.

7.4 The scoring of the Curriculum Vitae and the Research Plan shall follow the criteria outlined below:

I – Curriculum Vitae assessment; articles shall be evaluated considering the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) Impact Factor:

Academic Output	Score
Granted patent	10 points
Patent application filed	2 points
Article published or accepted for publication in indexed journals, according to Impact Factor (IF). The score shall be reduced by 50% when the applicant is not the first author or corresponding author	FI < 1 = 3 points FI 1 - 3 = 6 points FI > 3 = 10 points
Full paper published in conference proceedings	2 points
Abstract or extended abstract published in conference proceedings	0,5 point (maximum of 10 items = 5 points)

Book published by an internationally recognized publisher	8 points
Book chapter published by an internationally recognized publisher (forewords, prefaces, and introductions shall not be considered)	4 points

II – Research Plan Assessment:

Evaluation Criteria	Score
Justification clearly demonstrating the contributions of the proposed study to scientific, technological, economic, social well-being, or environmental quality improvements, considering its alignment with the Graduate Program's research lines and the Network's thematic areas	40 points
Objectives, including a clear definition and delimitation of the outcomes to be achieved during the Doctoral Research Scholarship period	30 points
Justification for undertaking the training period in Brazil, considering the research capacity available in the country of origin or residence and explaining the reasons for selecting the host Brazilian Graduate Program	20 points
Expected academic and scientific outputs resulting from the Doctoral Research Scholarship period	10 points

7.4.1 Publishers shall be considered internationally recognized when they demonstrate a structured editorial process involving peer review, a qualified editorial board, indexing in relevant academic databases, and an established academic reputation with a record of significant publications in the relevant field.

7.5 Each institution within the Network shall be responsible for all stages of its internal selection process and may establish additional selection criteria reflecting its specific characteristics and ensuring access for Graduate Programs affiliated with the Network. Institutions shall bear full responsibility for the evaluation and dissemination of results.

7.6 In the event that scholarship positions remain unallocated at one or more institutions, the Steering Committee shall redistribute these scholarships among alternate candidates according to the following order of priority:

I – Candidates from affiliated institutions, ranked first according to the lowest Municipal Human Development Index (MHDI) of the municipality where the institution's administrative headquarters is located and, subsequently, according to their Curriculum Vitae score; and

II – All remaining candidates, ranked according to their Curriculum Vitae score.

8. APPEALS



8.1 Each institution shall ensure the possibility of appeals within its institutional selection process, in accordance with the timetable established in Section 10, allowing candidates one business day after publication of the institutional results to submit an appeal.

8.2 Appeals against the final Network results shall be submitted to the Steering Committee, in accordance with the timetable established in Section 10, by sending the request to capex.global@furg.br within one business day after publication of the results.

9. OBLIGATIONS OF THE AWARDED DOCTORAL SANDWICH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

9.1 Recipients of a Doctoral Research Scholarship in Brazil shall be required to:

I – Obtain health insurance providing, at a minimum, coverage for medical and hospital expenses, funeral repatriation, and accompaniment by at least one family member in Brazil in the event of serious occurrences.

II – Sign the Scholarship Award and Acceptance Agreement, thereby committing to comply with the work plan approved by the Higher Education Institution and to reimburse CAPES for any benefits improperly received.

III – Secure the appropriate visa required for entry into and legal stay in Brazil before purchasing travel tickets.

IV – Maintain regular immigration status in Brazil throughout the entire scholarship period.

V – Keep personal registration information updated with the host institution.

VI – Inform both the host institution and the funding agency of any change in immigration status.

VII – Remain informed about all obligations and commitments related to the scholarship through regular consultation of CAPES official electronic platforms.

VIII – Submit all documentation required by CAPES.

IX – Comply with the academic regulations of the host institution in which they are enrolled, as well as with CAPES regulations.

X – Acknowledge CAPES funding in any dissemination of activities, outputs, or results derived from the scholarship. The acknowledgment shall be made in the language of the publication and



shall read as follows: "This [type of activity, work, or disseminated result] was carried out with funding from the Coordination for the Improvement of Higher Education Personnel – Brazil (CAPES), under the CAPES-Global.Edu Program, Process No. [process number]."

XI – Return to their country of origin upon completion of the scholarship period.

XII – Submit a final Doctoral Research Scholarship report to the Network Steering Committee within a maximum of thirty (30) days after the end of the scholarship period. The report shall not exceed five pages and shall include, at a minimum: a description of the activities carried out; submitted or published scientific articles; patent applications or granted patents; presentations delivered at scientific events; submitted or published book chapters and/or books; and activities undertaken to disseminate the knowledge acquired among students and faculty members of the BLUE-LINK Network.

9.2 Financial and technical reporting requirements for scholarship recipients selected under this Call shall comply with the regulations currently in force at CAPES.

9.3 The scholarship closure process shall only be considered complete after the recipient has fulfilled all reporting obligations related to the study period in Brazil and has complied with all responsibilities established for former scholarship recipients.

9.4 For accountability purposes, former scholarship recipients shall submit the following documentation to CAPES within a maximum period of sixty (60) days after leaving Brazil, as proof of their return to their country of origin:

- I – A final report describing the activities performed in accordance with the proposed work plan;
- II – A letter issued by the Brazilian host institution certifying the activities carried out;
- III – A copy of the passport page showing the departure date from Brazil, or an equivalent document;
- IV – The return electronic airline ticket; and
- V – Proof of boarding.

9.5 In exceptional situations involving reimbursement of funds to CAPES, the scholarship recipient shall provide proof of repayment of the returned funds. [

9.6 The health insurance policy contracted by the scholarship recipient is mandatory and exempts CAPES and the institutions participating in the BLUE-LINK Network from any responsibility for additional payment or reimbursement of expenses. The insurance policy must provide the broadest possible coverage within Brazil and shall necessarily include coverage for medical and hospital expenses, funeral repatriation, and accompaniment by at least one family member in Brazil in the event of serious occurrences.

9.7 CAPES and the institutions participating in the BLUE-LINK Network shall not be responsible for medical, funeral, or repatriation expenses not covered by the health insurance policy obtained by the scholarship recipient, including expenses resulting from self-inflicted injuries, regardless of the cause of the event. Under such circumstances, the recipient's family shall bear the costs of medical or funeral repatriation, when applicable, as well as any other necessary procedures, whether in Brazil or abroad.

10. SCHEDULE

10.1 This Call for Applications shall be conducted in accordance with the following schedule:

Stage	Deadline	Responsible Party
Publication of institution-specific procedures associated with this Call for Applications	By 20 July 2026	Office of Research and Graduate Studies (or equivalent body) of each institution
Institutional selection processes	Between 21 July and 20 September 2026 (according to the detailed schedule established by each institution, pursuant to Section 5.1.2)	Office of Research and Graduate Studies (or equivalent body) of each institution
Submission to the Steering Committee of information regarding approved candidates (awardees and alternates), organized by thematic area	25 September 2026	Office of Research and Graduate Studies (or equivalent body) of each institution
Review and publication of the Network's preliminary results	2 October 2026	Network Steering Committee
Appeal submission regarding the final Network results	5 October 2026, until 11:59 p.m. (Brasília Time)	Applicant
Publication of the final Network results	9 October 2026	Steering Committee
Nomination of awarded candidates through the CAPES system	12–30 October 2026	Theme Coordinator
Beginning of academic activities in Brazil	March–June 2027	Scholarship Recipient

11. FINAL PROVISIONS

11.1 Submission of an application under this Call for Applications implies the applicant's full knowledge and unconditional acceptance of all terms, conditions, and requirements established herein.

11.2 Requests for clarification concerning this Call for Applications may be directed to the contact email addresses designated by each participating institution.

11.3 Any cases not expressly addressed in this Call for Applications shall be reviewed and decided by the Steering Committee of the BLUE-LINK Network.

Issued on 3 July 2026

BLUE-LINK Network Steering Committee



ANNEX I

Application Form – Doctoral Research Scholarship in Brazil

Full Name:

Passport Number:

CPF (Brazilian Individual Taxpayer Registration Number):

E-mail Address:

ORCID ID:

Country of Birth:

Country of Residence:

Home Doctoral Program / University / Country:

Host Institution in Brazil:

Host Graduate Program in Brazil:

Period of Research Stay in Brazil (month/year of arrival and departure):

BLUE-LINK Network Thematic Area (Please indicate the thematic area under which you are applying for the scholarship. Applicants should verify which thematic areas are covered by the Graduate Program of interest.)

- ☐ Biodiversity and biotechnology applied to the Blue Economy and its management
- ☐ Climate change, extreme events, and their socio-environmental impacts on estuarine, coastal, and oceanic ecosystems
- ☐ Human health in the context of One Health in estuarine–coastal regions
- ☐ Food safety and quality from estuarine, coastal, and oceanic natural resources

Information required by the call for female applicants who became mothers:

Date:

Applicant's Signature

